

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for covering payloads, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a suspended track
- (b) a hoist, slidably engaged to said track, said hoist having a retractable line;
- (c) a spreader bar attachable to said retractable line, said bar having means for attaching to a covering; and
- (d) means to move said hoist.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

- (a) a rod that traverses beneath said track;

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said rod is rotatable about its axis.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

- (a) a support structure, said structure comprising a base and a vertically extending side frame rigidly attached thereto; and
- (b) rigid arms extending in perpendicular fashion from generally the same height of said side frame, said track spanning between said arms.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising

- (a) a rod that traverses beneath said track.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said track is suspended a sufficient distance away from
2 said side frame such that it would be suspended generally over the vertical centerline of a payload
3 positioned beneath.

4
5 7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said arms are extended from said support structure at a
6 sufficient height to overhang variable sized payloads positioned beneath.

7
8 8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said base is mounted on wheels.

9
10 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means to move said hoist comprises an electronically
11 operable remote controlled system.

12
13 10. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

14 (a) a guide extending laterally from said hoist; and

15 (b) a wire connected at one end to said hoist, running along said guide, and connected
16 at its second end to said remote controlled system.

17
18 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for attaching to a covering comprises a
19 plurality of spring loaded locking mechanisms.

20
21 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for attaching to a covering comprises a
22 plurality of snap shackles.

13. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

(a) means for a person to secure himself to said apparatus to protect against falling from a payload being covered by said apparatus.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means comprise:

(a) a tether line suspended from said support structure in generally parallel fashion to said track; and

(b) a safety cable slidably engaged at one end to said tether line.

15. An apparatus for covering payloads, said apparatus comprising a movable hoist slidably suspended over a payload, said hoist having a retractable line that can be connected to a covering to be spread over the payload.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

(a) a spreader bar that connects to said covering and to said retractable line; and

(b) a means to support the trailing portion of said covering as it is pulled over a payload by said hoist.